

Family Worship

*What's Engraved in
God's Hand?*

21·03·2021

Opening Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, thank you for our family.

And thank you for the privilege of coming together for worship.

Help us to understand Your Word and obey it with a joyful heart.

In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

All Creatures of Our God and King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSEdTZcGtds>



Catechism Time!

Bible truths for teaching children

Question 38

Q: What is prayer?

A: Prayer is pouring out our hearts to God in adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication.

Remember: ACTS

Adoration = Praising God for who He is (e.g. love, goodness, compassion...)

Confession = Saying sorry for our wrongdoings (i.e. sins)

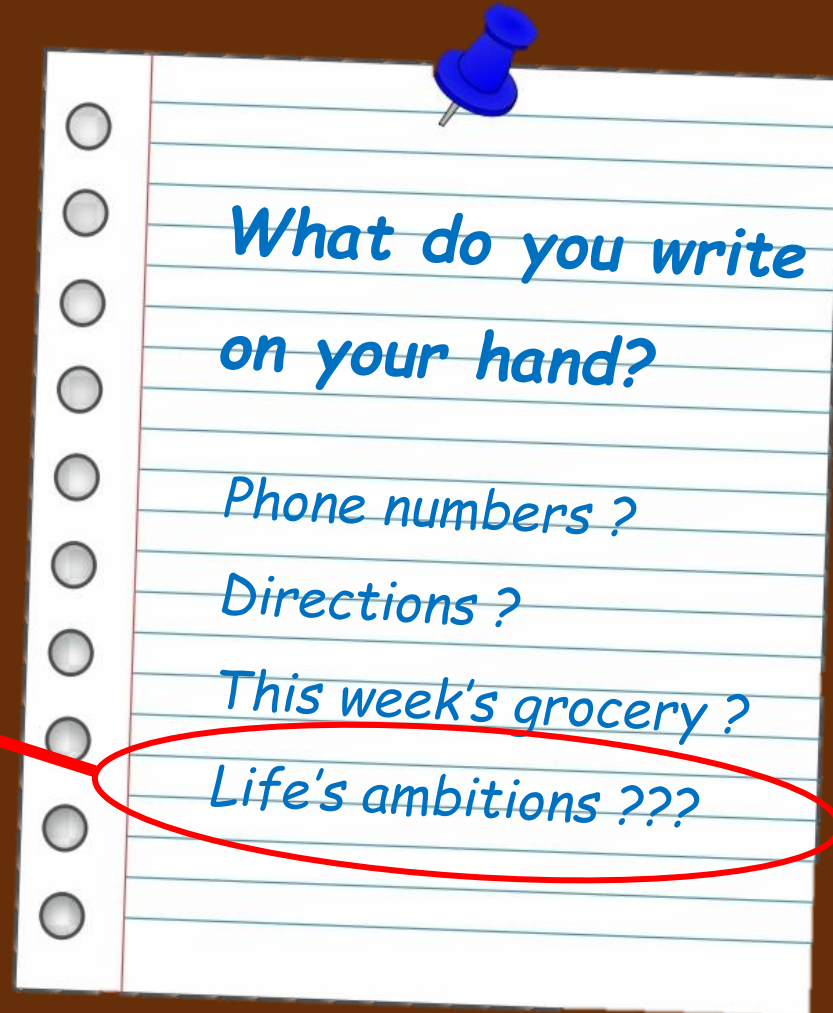
Thanksgiving = Thanking God for what He has done

Supplication = Asking God's help for ourselves and others

Bible verse (Psalm 62:8)

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.

Have you ever written anything on your hand to remind yourself of something important?



What do you write on your hand?

Phone numbers?

Directions?

This week's grocery?

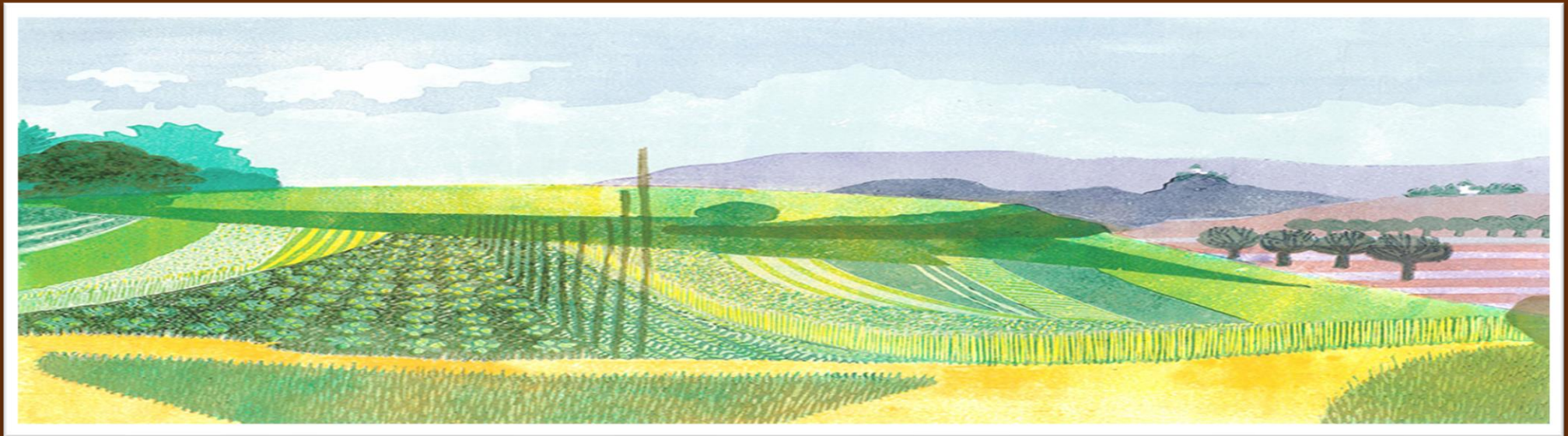
Life's ambitions ???

Before we dive into today's bible reading,
let's re-visit some background material

The Promised Land

A long time ago, God brought the Israelites out of Egypt where they were slaves under Pharaoh.

God adopted them as His people. He let them live in the promised land on condition that they remained **faithful** to Him. The land was really good - it was "flowing with milk and honey" !



The Israelites were a kingdom of priests. God desired to direct His blessing and rule in the world through them.

Exile Into Babylon

But sadly the Israelites kept disobeying God. Instead of following God's commands, they turned their backs on Him and worshipped worthless idols.

So God allowed them to be overpowered by the Babylonians. Even the magnificent Temple in Jerusalem built by King Solomon was destroyed in 586 BC.



God's people went into exile in Babylon and spent 70 years there 😞

After many years in exile, they started to lose hope, wondering how much longer before they could go home...

Like the whole world is wondering when COVID will be over...

A Sad Psalm

Psalm 137 describes the experience of God's people in exile...
How they longed to go home

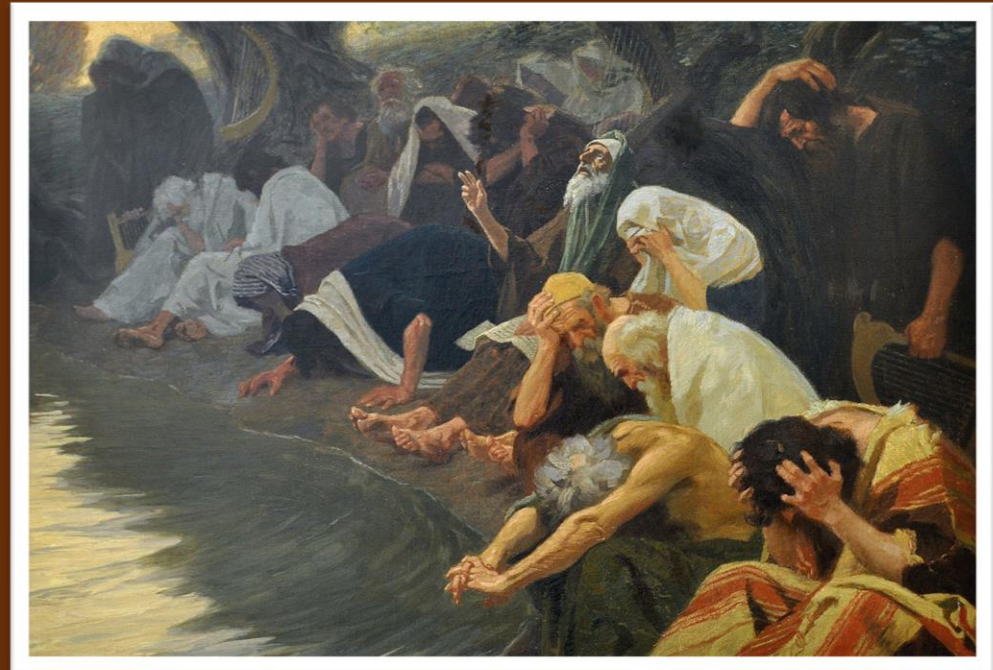
By the rivers in Babylon we sat and cried
when we remembered Jerusalem.

On the poplar trees nearby
we hung our harps.

Those who captured us asked us to sing.
Our enemies wanted happy songs.
They said, "Sing us a Temple song
from Jerusalem!"

But we cannot sing songs about the Lord
while we are in this foreign country!

Jerusalem, if I forget you,
let my right hand lose its skill.



Did God hear the cry of His people ?

Or has He forgotten them ?

Let's find out from Isaiah 49:14-16.

God used it to comfort His people in exile.

Isaiah 49:14-16

14 But Jerusalem said, "The Lord has left me.
The Lord has forgotten me."

15 The Lord answers, "Can a woman forget the baby she nurses?
Can she feel no kindness for the child she gave birth to?
Even if she could forget her children, I will not forget you.

16 **See, I have written (engraved) your name on my hand.**
Jerusalem, I always think about your walls.

Tough Times

God's people in exile felt that God had forgotten them.

1. Have you also experienced a long period of sadness and disappointment? (Each family member takes turn to share)
2. Did you feel God was far away...and had even forgotten you?



Tough Times

God loves us. But He let us go through tough times because...

- ❑ Like Israel, we sin and need discipline

The Lord disciplines those He loves. (Proverbs 3:12)

- ❑ He wants us to learn humility & obedience

Even though Jesus was the Son of God, he learned to obey by what he suffered. (Hebrews 5:8)

- ❑ He wants to strengthen our character

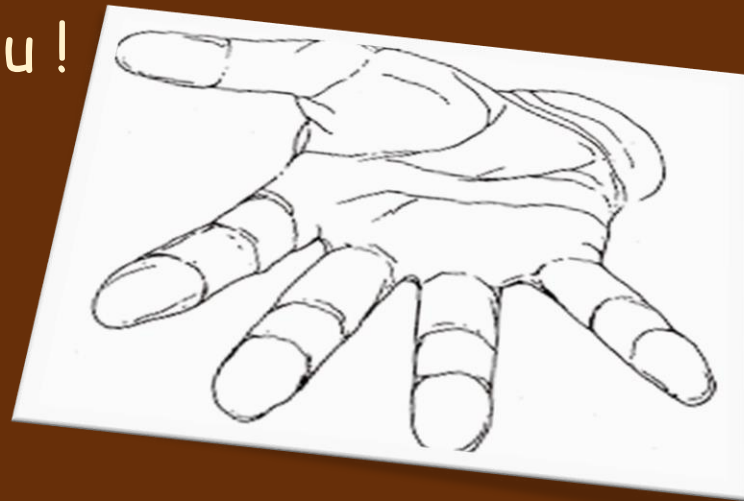
...These troubles produce patience. And patience produces character, and character produces hope. (Romans 5:4)

So next time when you go through tough times...

When you feel like saying "the Lord has left me, the Lord has forgotten me"...

Remember what God said through the prophet Isaiah to His beloved people, "I have engraved your name on my hand."

He will neither leave you nor forget you !



But you may still wonder, how do I know for sure that my name is engraved in God's big and mighty hand?



God's love for us is permanently engraved on His hands.
Just look at Jesus' hands...



Jesus appearing to Thomas (John 20:26-29)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Family Prayer Time

1. Thank God for His Word and help so we may learn from Him.
2. Ask your children to pray for what they have learned just now.
3. Ask your family how you can pray for them specifically.

有一位神 *There is a God*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8R9_oEFgdg

